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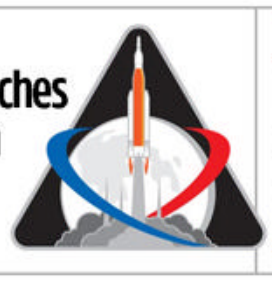
BIG NEWS
NASA launches new Moon mission
p2



HOW TO
Mix up a sweet batch of slime
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SPORTS
World Cup underway in Qatar
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

PROTECTING PENGUINS

US government issues new safeguards for a threatened species p10

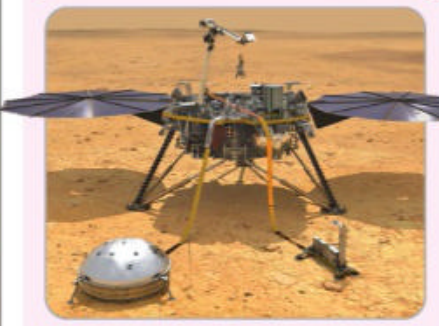
DID YOU KNOW?

- Emperor penguins live in Antarctica.
- They are in danger due to melting sea ice.
- The new ruling will raise more money to help them.

TWIN NAMES
In Greek mythology, Artemis is the goddess of the Moon and the twin sister of the god Apollo.

NASA's Space Launch System rocket takes off to begin the Artemis 1 mission.

Farewell to a Mars rover



NASA scientists are saying farewell to the InSight Mars Lander, a rover that has explored the Red Planet for four years. The wheeled robot was the first scientific vessel to probe deep into the rocky surface of Mars. It's shutting down because thick layers of Martian dust are covering the solar panels that power it.

Artemis 1 launches into space

On November 16, NASA, the US space agency, launched its Artemis 1 mission, the first step in its larger Artemis program designed to put people on the Moon for the first time in 50 years. The uncrewed Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket ever built, took off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It marks NASA's first lunar mission since the Apollo program of the 1960s and 1970s, during which 12 men walked on the Moon.

What is Artemis?

Artemis is a $40 billion program to explore parts of the Moon that humans have never visited and test out technologies that could one day be used on missions to Mars. "The Moon is a good place to learn new science," NASA wrote on its website. It's "a place to demonstrate that astronauts will one day be able to work away from Earth on Mars for long periods of time." The Artemis program will have three launches. The primary goals of Artemis 1 are to test the SLS systems in space and ensure that the flight can safely reenter Earth's atmosphere (a blanket of gases that surrounds our planet) and land in the ocean. Artemis 2 will carry a crew and orbit the Moon, while Artemis 3 will land on the Moon, with a crew that includes the first woman and the first person of color to travel there. The astronauts will look for water and learn about ways to live and work on the lunar surface.

Charlie Blackwell-Thompson

What is the SLS?

The 322-foot-tall SLS includes an Orion capsule on top where up to four astronauts will sit during future missions. Launching Artemis 1 without a crew lets NASA identify any technical issues before putting people on the spaceship. There are three mannequins in the capsule, named Helga, Zohar, and Moonikin Campos. They are loaded with sensors that will gauge how a human body responds to space travel. The SLS and Orion are outfitted with cameras that are sending back stunning images of Earth. A Snoopy doll in a spacesuit joined the mannequins inside the capsule. The famous cartoon dog will float around the cabin when the spacecraft reaches zero gravity.

How did the launch go?

Artemis 1 was initially set to launch in August, but the first attempt was stopped at the last minute because an engine was at risk of overheating. A second try in September was halted due to a leak in a fuel line. A third launch was canceled because of Hurricane Ian, which hit Florida in September. On November 16, while the SLS was on the launchpad preparing to take off, mission managers again detected a leak of the rocket's liquid hydrogen fuel. Instead of scrapping the launch, they sent a special team of technicians called a Red Crew to make repairs. As the clock ticked on the short window of opportunity for the launch, the daring crew went under the base of the fully fueled rocket and tightened the nuts that were allowing hydrogen fuel to escape. After the successful launch, Charlie Blackwell-Thompson, the launch director, told her team, "We are all part of something incredibly special … the first step in returning our country to the Moon and on to Mars."

What will happen next?

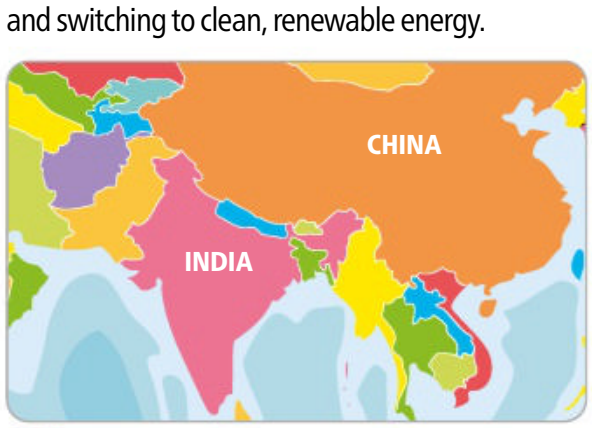
Orion is expected to spend 25 days and 11 hours in space. On November 21, the capsule flew by the far side of the Moon, 81 miles from the lunar surface. Then it moved into orbit 40,000 miles from the surface, where it will spend six days looping around the Moon. That is the farthest any spacecraft outfitted for humans has gone before. In all, Orion will travel 1.3 million miles before splashing back down in the Pacific Ocean near California on December 11. If all goes well, Artemis 2 could send Orion to orbit the Moon in 2024, and Artemis 3 could make a lunar landing in 2025.

World now has 8 billion people

The world's population reached 8 billion people on November 15, according to the United Nations (a group of 193 countries working toward peace and cooperation). That's more than three times the global population in 1950. Next year, India is expected to surpass China as the world's most heavily populated country.

Improvements in health care are helping people live longer, with an average life expectancy of 72.8 years in 2019, almost nine years longer than it was in 1990. Better nutrition, vaccines, and clean water are also preventing people from dying. However, the rate at which the world's population is growing is slowing down, as families in many parts of the world are having fewer children.

The UN projects that the world population will peak at about 10.4 billion people in the 2080s and remain at that level until 2100. Experts warn that the growing population will strain natural resources and increase levels of pollution. They stress the importance of finding new food sources and switching to clean, renewable energy.



The portraits of Serena Williams (left) and José Andrés

DID YOU KNOW?
The National Portrait Gallery opened in 1968 and has more than 23,000 works of art in its collection.

Portrait of a Nation awards given

On November 12, seven people received the National Portrait Gallery's 2022 Portrait of a Nation Award for their contributions to America. A ceremony was held at the gallery in Washington, DC, where portraits of each person were displayed.

The National Portrait Gallery, which is part of the Smithsonian Institution and showcases artwork depicting people who have helped shape the US, established the Portrait of a Nation Award in 2015. Past recipients include former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, and baseball player Henry "Hank" Aaron.

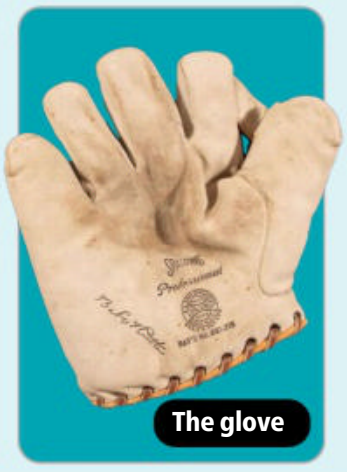
This year's winners were civil rights and children's rights activist Marian Wright Edelman, filmmaker Ava DuVernay, public health leader Anthony Fauci, chef José Andrés, music executive Clive Davis, and tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams. Artists and photographers were asked to create a portrait of each person. Fauci is depicted in a stop-motion animation that represents his career researching and fighting diseases, including Covid-19. Andrés—the founder of World Central Kitchen, which has served millions of meals to people during natural disasters and wars, including in Ukraine—said the portrait of him holding a pot of food shows that "In the worst moments of humanity, the best of humanity shows up."

"When you see the portraits, you realize history matters and what you do matters," said Venus Williams. DuVernay said the award would be "fuel and fire for me to just keep going." The art will be displayed at the gallery through October 22, 2023.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A GREAT CATCH

A historic baseball glove sold for the stunning price of $1.53 million at an auction. Legendary Hall of Fame player George Herman "Babe" Ruth wore the glove when he played for the New York Yankees in the 1920s and 1930s. The auction house called the sale "monumental."



The glove

Lifting the tree

A GRAND ARRIVAL

One gigantic Christmas tradition is back. An 82-foot Norway spruce from upstate New York arrived at New York City's Rockefeller Plaza to be decorated with 50,000 colorful lights. Every year, organizers scout for the perfect tree in a nearby state. "Now it's a special tree," said the person who grew it.

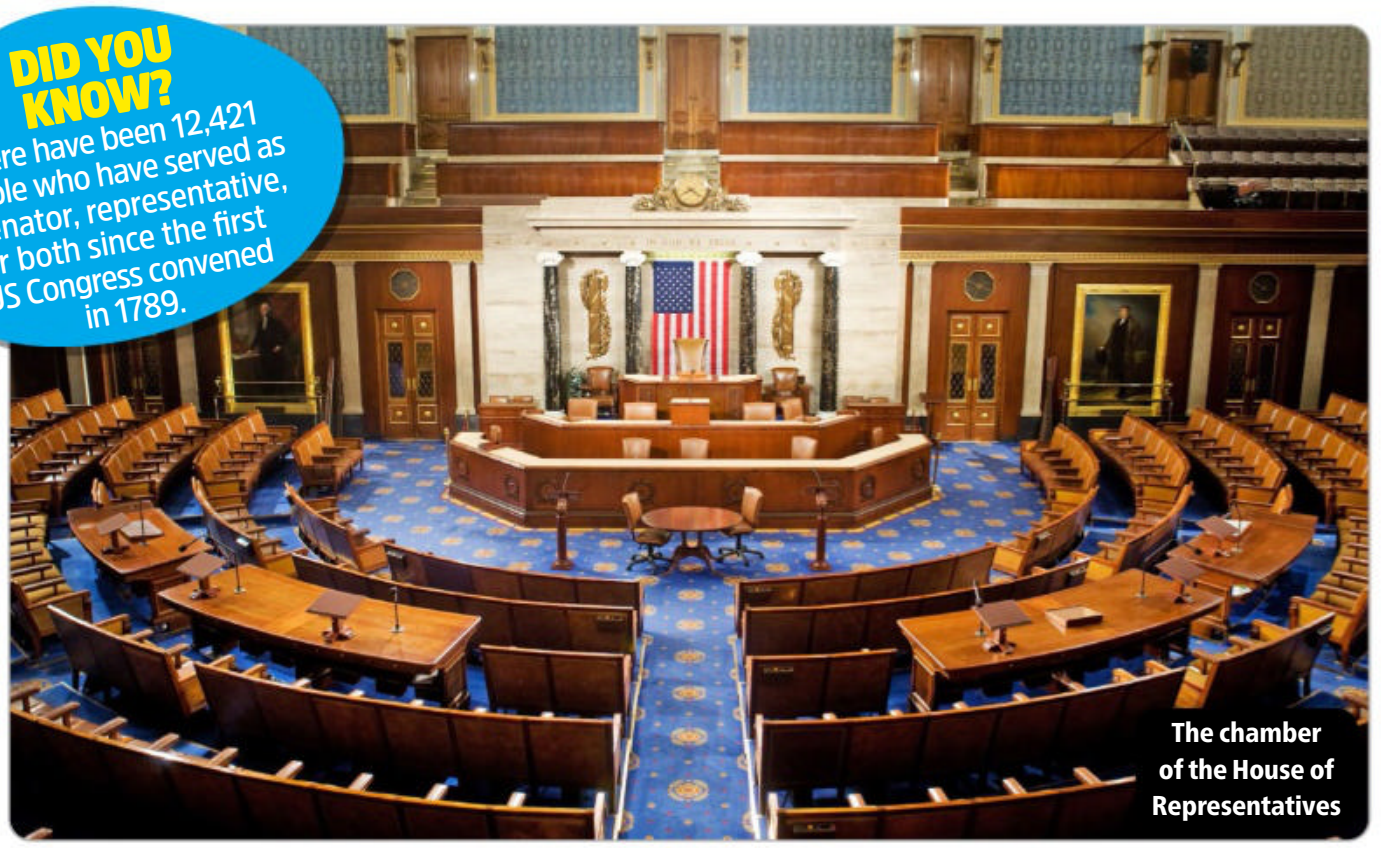
NEVER GIVING UP

A 95-year-old grandmother from Louisiana was named one of this year's best musicians. Angela Alvarez started writing songs as a teenager in Cuba, but her father did not let her pursue a career in music. After her grandson helped her record an album, Alvarez won a "Best New Artist" Latin Grammy Award. "It's never too late," she said.

Angela Alvarez

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES; THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL; NASA; FIFA WORLD CUP; JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; ON THIS PAGE: KADIR NELSON; TOYIN OJIH ODUTOLA; GETTY IMAGES (3); COURTESY OF HUNT AUCTIONS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; NASA/JPL-CALTECH; ALAMY

DID YOU KNOW?
There have been 12,421 people who have served as a senator, representative, or both since the first US Congress convened in 1789.


The chamber of the House of Representatives

A historic leader

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi, 82, is the first and only woman to hold the position of Speaker of the House. She has represented California's 12th District for 35 years and has led the Democrats in the House for nearly 20 years. After first running for office at age 47, she became one of the most powerful women in US history.

Republicans take control of House

After most of the votes from this year's midterm election were counted, control of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) changed hands, from the Democrats to the Republicans.

What happened?

On Election Day, November 8, all 435 seats in the House were up for election. It was determined on November 16 that Republicans had won the majority of seats, with 218 in their favor. Even if Democrats were to win all of the remaining seats that were undeclared when *The Week Junior* went to press on November 22, Republicans would still hold the majority. The Democrats will continue to control the Senate (the other half of Congress).

What does this mean?

With the House controlled by the Republicans and the Senate controlled by the Democrats, President Joe Biden, a Democrat, will contend with a divided government for the second half of his four-year term. This will affect which bills get discussed, voted on, passed, and sent to him to sign into law. Biden will still be able to get approval on top officials and judges because only the Senate moves those nominations forward.

How will House leadership change?

When control of the House changes from one party to another, the top leader (Speaker of the House) also changes. The current Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, will step down as Speaker in January. She announced that she will not seek a lower leadership position but will remain in office. Representative Kevin McCarthy, a California Republican, is pursuing the role of Speaker. He was elected to the House in 2006 and has been the House Minority Leader, the leader of the party not in control, since 2019.

What will happen next?

The next Congress will begin its new session on January 3. After being sworn in, Republicans will vote on the Speaker. A lawmaker must receive 218 votes to win. Because Republicans hold a narrow majority over Democrats, McCarthy will need full support from his party to become Speaker. Other lawmakers have not stepped forward to challenge him but could in the coming days. Democrats will also vote on their Minority Leader.

WORD OF THE WEEK

FAREWELL

We will soon be saying farewell to InSight, the Mars rover. The expression "farewell" emerged 500 years ago as an expression of good wishes to a friend who was leaving, typically on a journey. It expressed the hope that they would "fare" or "travel" well after saying goodbye. "Goodbye" itself is a shortening of the wish, "God be with ye."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

December 2, 1970
EPA begins protecting environment

On December 2, 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began work. Calls for it to be formed came about due to a concern that disasters caused by humans, such as oil spills, were harming the environment. The first Earth Day had been celebrated earlier that year. The EPA would go on to ban harmful chemicals and reduce pollution. It is credited with creating cleaner water and air.

The EPA seal

Digging out after the storm

Record snowfall in New York

A historic snowstorm struck western New York state from November 18–21, dropping more than six feet of snow on Buffalo and 80 inches on nearby Orchard Park. The storm set a Buffalo city record for the biggest snowfall in a 24-hour period, with 21.5 inches falling on November 19. It was the third-highest snowfall over a three-day period in state history. Northern New York was also hit hard, with areas near Watertown receiving more than 70 inches.

Lab-grown chicken

FDA approves lab-grown meat

For the first time, a meat product that has been grown in a lab has been approved by the FDA (US agency that monitors food safety) for people to eat. The meat, made by Upside Foods, was created from live animal cells and grown in stainless-steel tanks. Before the product can be sold to consumers, it must be approved by the US Department of Agriculture, which regulates meat.

One of the new words

Scrabble dictionary adds words

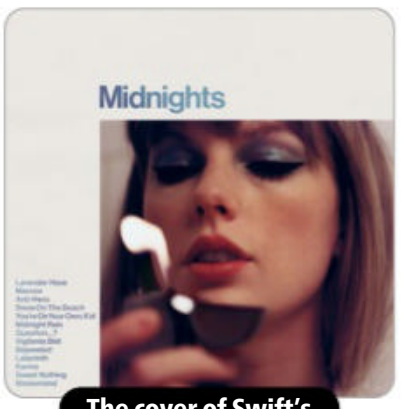
More than 500 words have been added to the 7th edition of the official dictionary for the Scrabble board game. The additions, between two and eight letters long, join more than 100,000 words already in the dictionary. Many of the new entries are short versions of other words, such as "adorbs" (adorable), "vax" (vaccine), and "inspo" (inspiration). Food-related words, including queso, were also added.

Taylor Swift

Concert ticket sale causes shutdown

A website crash during ticket sales for Taylor Swift's new concert tour resulted in millions of fans being unable to make purchases. The US government announced that it would investigate Ticketmaster, the company selling the tickets.

On November 1, following the October release of her record-breaking album, *Midnights*, Swift announced that she would perform live for the first time in five years. The Eras Tour will include 52 dates across North America starting in March 2023. Ticketmaster, the dominant ticketing company for the music industry, held its first presale on November 15. The presale was offered through the company's Verified Fan program, which is designed to ensure that tickets are purchased by fans rather than bots (software that buys tickets to resell them at a profit).



The cover of Swift's new album *Midnights*

Ticketmaster said that 3.5 million people signed up for the Verified Fan program, and about 1.5 million of them were given an access code to buy concert tickets. The system crashed, and those who were able to buy some of the 2 million tickets sold complained of technical problems, increased prices, and delays that lasted for hours.

Many who had an access code said they weren't able to buy tickets. "Every time I would click on seats, it would tell me someone else beat me to them," Jen Ferris, mother of an 11-year-old, told WPXI. "I probably clicked on 100 sets of tickets."

Ticketmaster was so overwhelmed that it canceled a general public sale scheduled for November 18. The company issued an apology, and Swift wrote on social media that she was "trying to figure out how this situation can be improved."

The US Justice Department has opened an investigation into Ticketmaster to explore whether the company is operating as a monopoly—a company with no competitor. A monopoly is illegal because it prevents customers from having options for where they can buy goods or services. Top law enforcement officials in North Carolina and Tennessee said they will also investigate.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Monkey wanders into train station in India" *UPI*

GETTY IMAGES (4); REPUBLIC RECORDS; USEPA; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Around the world

The Bay of Fundy

Nova Scotia, Canada
Tides harnessed for clean energy

Renewable energy (energy created by nature that does not run out, such as solar, wind, and water) is being made using the tides in the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. The bay is known for having some of the highest tides in the world. The power is generated with floating turbines, which are mechanical devices that use energy from the tides and turn it into electricity. The new system is providing energy for about 250 homes.

Frida the rescue dog

Mexico
Famous rescue dog remembered

On November 15, Mexico's navy announced that Frida, a golden Labrador retriever rescue dog, had died. Frida became famous around the world after an earthquake in Mexico City in 2017, when she wore goggles and boots on missions to rescue people. Artist Celeste Byers, who painted a mural of Frida on a building in Mexico City, said the canine hero was a "symbol of strength and hope."

The community protests.

Quito, Ecuador
Community rejects mining on their land

An Indigenous (people who were the first to inhabit a place) community in Ecuador has said they will not allow a government mining project on their territory. A court had previously ruled that the government must consult the community, but it reportedly did not. A spokesperson for the community told Reuters news agency that they would "always be ready to defend" their land.

Paris, France
Olympic mascots revealed

Mascots for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics in Paris have been revealed. Named the Phryges (pronounced free-jes), their shapes are inspired by Phrygian caps, a traditional hat in France. The Paralympic Phryge has a blade prosthesis (an artificial lower limb used by amputee runners). It is the first sports mascot to feature a visible disability.

The mascots

Lagos, Nigeria
A "trashion" show

Young activists in the city of Lagos took part in a "trashion" show, a fashion show featuring outfits made of garbage. The show was held to raise awareness about the amount of waste that is produced in Lagos and isn't recycled. Teens walked the runway in outfits made of plastic bottles, newspapers, and plastic spoons to highlight the impact of large amounts of waste. Models and activists attended the event.

The show

GETTY IMAGES (4); REUTERS (2); SHUTTERSTOCK (3); ALAMY

Around the world

One of the Viking ships

Oslo, Norway
Viking ships get protection

Three 1,000-year-old ships in Norway's Viking Ship Museum are being protected with special steel frames while a new museum is built next door. The protection is needed because the ships' ancient wood is very fragile and vibrations from building construction could damage them. The new museum is expected to open in 2026.

The closing session of the climate talks

Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
COP27 climate summit ends

COP27, the United Nations' climate conference, ended on November 20 with countries reaching a historic agreement to set up a "loss and damage" fund to help countries most vulnerable to climate disasters. Delegates from about 200 countries also agreed that global greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by almost half by 2030. However, they did not reach an agreement on phasing out fossil fuels, the world's main polluter.

A martial arts class for older people

Beijing, China
University for older people set up

China's government has announced plans for a nationwide university for people who are age 60 or older. China has about 267 million citizens who are in that age group. The university will have 3,735 learning centers and offer online and offline courses in such subjects as foreign languages, computer skills, and cooking. Jiang Hong, who is working on the project, said it is "an enterprise full of hope."

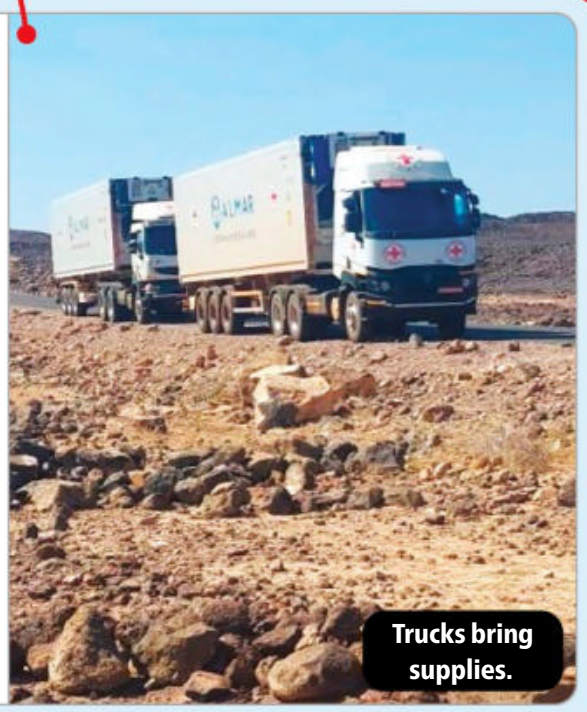
Buildings were evacuated.

Java, Indonesia
Earthquake strikes Indonesia

The main island of Java, Indonesia, was struck by a 5.6 magnitude earthquake on November 21, causing landslides and damage to dozens of buildings. When *The Week Junior* went to press, at least 268 people had died and more than 1,000 were injured. A rescue effort to free survivors is underway, and medical tents were set up near the site to provide treatment to the injured.

Tigray, Ethiopia
Medical aid arrives

The Tigray region of Ethiopia has received its first international delivery of medical supplies since August, following an agreement last month to end fighting in a civil war (war between people in the same country). During the fighting, the region was cut off from medicine and food. An official with the International Committee of the Red Cross, which delivered the supplies, said, "It is an enormous relief for us to deliver this cargo."


Trucks bring supplies.

Are holidays being celebrated too early?

Some people spread the holiday spirit over weeks. Others keep it short and sweet.

What you need to know

- **About 23% of Americans start winter holiday shopping in late October.**
- **A quarter of Americans who decorate for the holidays say they put up decorations the day after Thanksgiving, and 80% start decorating before December.**
- **In a survey, 49% of Americans said they want to see holiday decorations on or before Thanksgiving.**
- **Many businesses make about 20% of their yearly sales in November and December alone.**

DID YOU KNOW?
In 1939, Thanksgiving was moved a week earlier to get people to increase holiday spending.

November and December are packed with major holidays. It's a festive season and, these days, a hectic one. In the past, it was common for holidays to be celebrated one at a time. Thanksgiving meant relaxation with family and friends, and people waited until early December to start putting up Christmas lights and Hanukkah decorations. These days, though, people start shopping, decorating—and busting out the Christmas sweaters—the day after Thanksgiving. Some say holiday prep and festivities have gotten out of control. Others like to get a head start. What do you think? Are people celebrating holidays too early?

Yes—it steals the joy

How can you enjoy Thanksgiving when you feel pressured to start planning for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa while the turkey is still on the table? That's a lot of work without a chance to relax and recover from one holiday to the next. These holidays come around only once a year, which is part of what makes them special. If we crank up the seasonal spirit a month in advance, it gets tiresome, and the days of the actual holiday are less meaningful. The only reason for the rush is that companies want people to buy lots of gifts, decorations, and food. But in the process, we're losing our appreciation for each holiday's true spirit.

No—it extends the celebration

Some people really love the fall and winter holidays, and there's no harm in letting them experience that joy for a longer time. Why should it be limited? Research has found that having something to look forward to and enjoying the little things in life can improve well-being. Day-to-day life can be stressful, and thinking about or planning a festive occasion could be just the ticket to feeling better. Plus, when the celebrations start earlier, people have more time to decorate, prepare special treats, and gather with friends and family. In today's busy society, we need a head start.

YES Three reasons why holidays are being celebrated too early

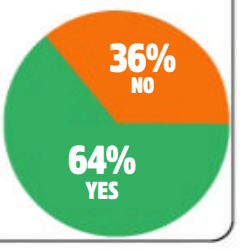
1. **It's hard to enjoy the current holiday when people feel pressured to start thinking about the next one.**
2. **Holidays are special because they happen so rarely. Starting too early makes them less meaningful.**
3. **The focus on spending money takes away from the true spirit of the holidays.**

NO Three reasons why holidays are not being celebrated too early

1. **People who love holidays should get to enjoy them for as long as they want to.**
2. **Having something special to look forward to has been shown to improve people's well-being.**
3. **Life is busy, and starting earlier gives people more time to plan, prepare, and gather with friends and family.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if schools should bring back cursive writing. Most of you are in favor of the classic writing style: 64% of you said yes, and 36% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think holidays are being celebrated too early or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Finding inner strength

Actor Chris Hemsworth challenges his body and mind in a new series.

Having played Thor, one of the strongest heroes in the Marvel films, for more than a decade, Chris Hemsworth knows a bit about being superhuman. In the new National Geographic series *Limitless with Chris Hemsworth*, he is testing his own superhuman abilities.

The six-part documentary series premiered on Disney+ on November 16. In each episode, Hemsworth tries extreme challenges designed to explore the full potential of the human body and mind. The challenges include walking across a crane on top of a 900-foot skyscraper and swimming in freezing Arctic water. His ultimate goal is to unlock the secrets of how humans can live healthier and longer lives.

The new series

Hemsworth, age 39, was born in Melbourne, Australia. Throughout his career, he has trained hard to play Thor, the God of Thunder, and many other action-hero roles. "I'm always motivated to be better—whether that be a better person or father, husband, friend, [and] work colleague," he once told *GQ Australia*.

Through each challenge in the new series, Hemsworth is on a mission to find ways to tackle the damaging effects of stress, build strength, improve his memory, and more. He is guided by experts in fields such as psychology and physiology, and every challenge he embarks on is based on scientific research.

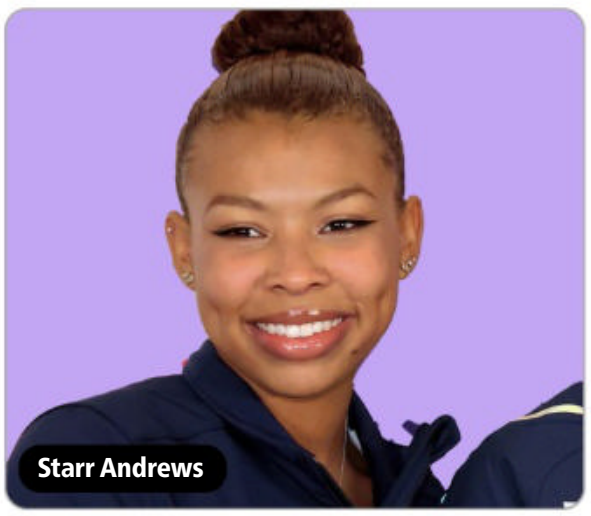
Hemsworth told *Entertainment Weekly* that working on the series inspired him to make the most of every moment. He said he gained a "beautiful understanding and appreciation for how incredible the human body and mind is and what potential we all have."

Chris Hemsworth

WOW! Chris Hemsworth has starred as Thor in eight Marvel films from 2011 to 2022.

Skater makes history

Starr Andrews, 21, became the first Black US figure skater to take home a Grand Prix medal on October 29 at the Skate Canada International tournament in Ontario. Andrews first gained national attention at age 9, when a video of her skating to the song "Whip My Hair" by Willow Smith drew millions of views. Her performance in Canada , which included six triple jumps, earned her the silver medal. In a social media post after her win, she called it "a dream come true." She now has her sights set on the 2026 Winter Olympics.


Starr Andrews

Dale Haney

A career milestone

This year, Dale Haney marked his 50th year as chief White House groundskeeper. During his long career, he has seen 10 presidents take office. In his role, he tends to the White House's 18 acres of lawn, 500 trees, thousands of shrubs, and famous flower and vegetable gardens. He is also tasked each year with choosing the official White House Christmas tree. To honor Haney's 50 years on the job, President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden surprised him by planting an elm tree on the south grounds. At the ceremony, Jill Biden said, "He is one of the most beloved people here."

OVERHEARD

"Every time I go into the water, I see things I've never seen before."

American oceanographer and explorer Dr.Sylvia Earle, on her long career studying ocean life. Earle, 87, walked the seafloor at a record-breaking depth of 1,250 feet in 1979.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC; GETTY IMAGES (4)

Emperor penguins

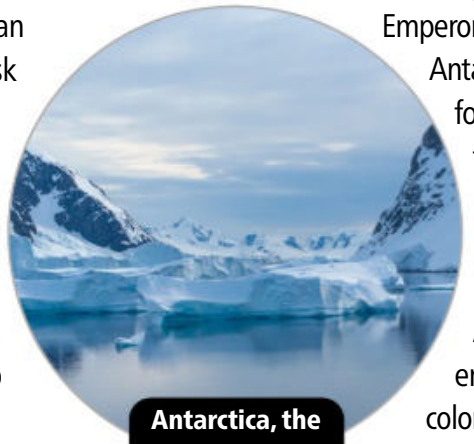
Emperor penguin facts

Emperor penguins are the world's largest species of penguin, weighing up to 88 pounds and standing nearly four feet tall. They are known for their distinctive waddling movements when they walk. Males keep the species' eggs warm while females look for food (typically krill).

Emperor penguins get protection

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has officially listed emperor penguins as a threatened species. A threatened species is one that is at risk of becoming an endangered species (at high risk of becoming extinct, or no longer existing). This listing will give the penguin further legal protection from the federal government. "The listing of the emperor penguin serves as an alarm bell but also a call to action," said Martha Williams, director of the FWS.

Currently, the population of emperor penguins is at about 625,000 to 650,000 animals. The main danger to the species, which lives in Antarctica, comes from climate change (the long-term changes in weather patterns, including temperature, largely due to human activities). Emperor penguins rely on sea ice in Antarctica to avoid predators, hunt for food, and breed and raise their offspring.


Antarctica, the penguins' home

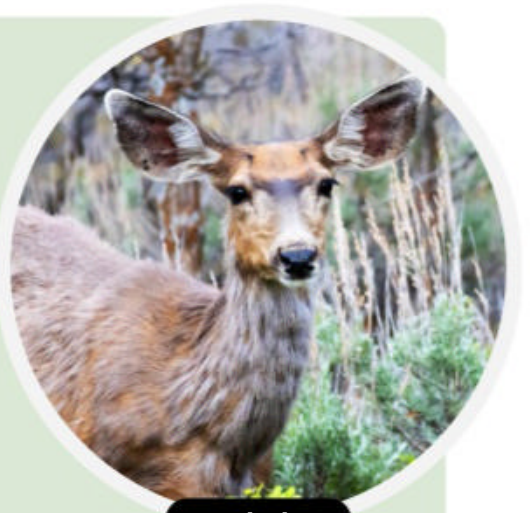
As the planet heats up, however, that sea ice is breaking up and disappearing. Antarctica's second-largest emperor penguin breeding colony, the Halley Bay colony, has already been devastated by years of lost sea ice, which left newborn chicks unable to survive. A 2021 study found that the penguins could be nearly extinct by the year 2100 if there are no reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases (gases that remain in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, causing the planet to warm up). Polar bears, seals, and several different kinds of coral have also been listed by the FWS as threatened species due to climate change.

Emperor penguins had already been listed as a threatened species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The new FWS listing should increase funding for conservation efforts and require federal agencies to consider the impact their projects will have on penguin populations. Shaye Wolf, climate science director for the Center for Biological Diversity, which first urged the FWS to list penguins as endangered in 2011, said, "This is a big win for these beloved, iconic penguins and all of us who want them to thrive."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Colorado

In this rugged national park in Colorado, steep cliffs of metamorphic rock tower over the roaring Gunnison River. Cliffs plunge 2,722 feet at their deepest, in Warner Point. The Black Canyon's narrowest point is called the Narrows, with a width of 40 feet. When the first railroad passed through the canyon in 1882, passengers were stunned by the dramatic landscape. Today, it is a popular destination for wildlife viewing as well as stargazing. Visitors may see the world's fastest bird, the peregrine falcon, hear coyotes' calls, or spot deer or the yellow-bellied marmot.


A mule deer

WOW! Male bison, called bulls, weigh up to 2,000 pounds. Females, called cows, weigh up to 1,000 pounds.

A bison

Bison bring life back to prairie land

Bison are giving prairie grasslands new life, research has found. Tallgrass prairie once covered more than 170 million acres of North America, from Indiana to Kansas and Canada to Texas. This ecosystem (a group of plants or animals in a certain place that affect each other) supports a variety of wildlife, including other plants, birds, reptiles, and mammals. However, tallgrass was mostly replaced by farmland.

Bison once commonly grazed on these lands. These majestic mammals are herbivores (plant eaters), and in recent decades they have been reintroduced in Indiana to the largest remaining tallgrass prairie, which is now a nature preserve. The study, conducted over more than 30 years, showed that the grazing habits of bison have helped to more than double native species in the area.

Researchers hope the study will demonstrate the positive effects of reintroducing bison to prairies. "More diverse plant communities lead to more diverse communities of insects, birds, and mammals," said scientist Doug Levey.

Animal of the week: Peacock butterfly

Peacock butterflies are known for four prominent circles on their wings that look like eyes. A new study confirms that the "eyespots" deter predators. They appear to always be watching—called the "Mona Lisa effect" after the famous painting.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 11 months
- **HABITAT:** Woods and gardens in Europe
- **SIZE:** A wingspan of about 2.5 inches
- **DIFFUSE:** Nectar from flowers such as dandelions
- **FUN FACT:** Female peacock butterflies lay up to 500 eggs at a time.

Good week / Bad week

Big Asian animals

Populations of larger animals typically decline when humans live close by. But in a positive sign for four species in Asia—tigers, elephants, wild boars, and clouded leopards—populations appear to have grown in areas near humans.

California parks

Wild pigs in Monterey County in California are destroying parks, mainly by ripping up grass. Park rangers have been capturing them, but the pig population is growing faster than the pace at which rangers have been able to catch them.

Ask a zookeeper: "What kinds of jellyfish glow?" Wren, 8, Connecticut

Alex Middlebrook
Biologist,
Adventure Aquarium

Many species of jellyfish, including the crystal jelly and crown jellies, can produce their own light using a process called bioluminescence. They use this light to attract prey. Many of these bioluminescent jellies live in the deep ocean, which is reached by very little to no light.

A jellyfish

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Adventure Aquarium in New Jersey at adventureaquarium.com.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ON THE LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (6)

A dance of beauty

Ballet is hundreds of years old and continues to evolve today.

Ballet began as entertainment for royalty in Europe. Today, this graceful style of dance is performed and admired around the globe.

A ballet in France

Ballet begins

The word ballet comes from the Italian word "ballare," which means "to dance." Early ballet was performed for the upper class and involved small hops, curtsies, and gentle turns. In the 1500s, ballet spread from Italy to France with the help of Catherine de Medici, who was born in Italy and became queen of France. An enthusiastic supporter of the arts, she funded simple ballets as a form of entertainment in the French royal court.

Catherine de Medici

Louis XIV

Moving to the stage

King Louis XIV, who ruled France from 1643 to 1715, loved to dance. He moved ballet from a fun court entertainment with amateur dancers to the stage with professionally trained dancers. The king also enjoyed dancing in his productions. He hired 13 dance masters to create a dance school in Paris. The Académie Royale de Danse was founded in 1661 and is considered one of the first dance schools in the Western world. Around this time, French opera also began adding ballet to its productions. In the mid-1700s, French dance master Jean Georges Noverre decided that ballet could stand alone as an art form and did not have to be part of an opera. He introduced the *ballet d'action*, a ballet that tells a story.

DID YOU KNOW?
The earliest ballets featured male dancers only. Women were not allowed to join the ballet until 1681.

Dancers perform *The Nutcracker* in Spain.

Famous names

Anna Pavlova

This Russian star became the first ballerina to tour the world, starting in 1914. One of her best-known roles, performed thousands of times, was in a short ballet showing the end of a swan's life.

Rudolf Nureyev

After leaving Russia in 1961, Nureyev formed a famous partnership with Margot Fonteyn, who danced in the UK's Royal Ballet. Nureyev broke barriers for male dancers with his expressive style.

GETTY IMAGES (10); ALAMY

and strength

FAMOUS CREATOR
Russian choreographer George Balanchine, called "the father of American ballet," was known for his many stage productions, like *The Nutcracker*.

WOW!
The tutus worn by professional ballerinas cantake up to 90 hours to create.

Raven Wilkinson

Born in New York City, Wilkinson was one of the first Black ballerinas to dance with a major ballet company. In the 1950s, Wilkinson toured the US and bravely performed on stage in the segregated South.

Mikhail Baryshnikov

Known for his high leaps, Russian dancer Baryshnikov moved to New York City in 1974 to become the principal (top) dancer at the American Ballet Theatre. From 1980 to1989 he was artistic director.

Lincoln Center in New York City

Popularity soars

In the 1800s, dancers started dancing en pointe (on the tips of their toes) in special shoes. The tutu, a tulle skirt, also became popular. In the mid-1800s, Russian composers and choreographers created ballets featuring new themes, including magic and romance, and complicated dance sequences. These ballets included *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, and *The Sleeping Beauty*, which are now considered classics. Ballet made its way around the world and to the US. The San Francisco Ballet School was founded in 1933. It was followed by the American Ballet Theatre in 1939 and the New York City Ballet in 1948, both of which perform at Lincoln Center in New York City.

Dancers rehearse.

What's next for ballet

Ballet continues to grow and change. Some dance schools are adding modern dance moves, for example. The University of Southern California Kaufman School of Dance, founded in 2012, started the New Movement, a mix of ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and dance with a social message. In 2015, Misty Copeland broke barriers as the first Black female principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre. The dance company started Project Plié, whose goal is to recruit and train talented dancers of color around the US to continue to increase diversity in this beautiful art form.

Misty Copeland

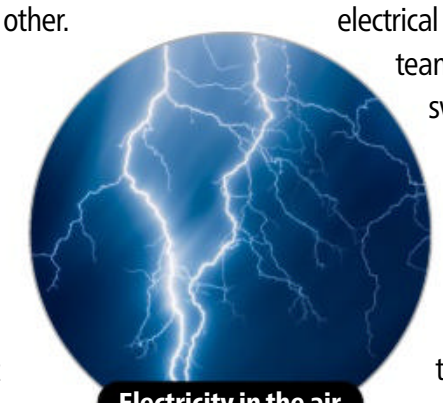
Swarming bees create an electrical charge.

WOW!
Bees use special receptors in their eyes to figure out where the Sun is, even on cloudy days.

Flying bees electrify the air

A swarm of bees produces an amazing amount of electricity, new research has found. Scientists say the electricity they create could be strong enough to affect the weather.

Small electrical charges are everywhere. There are two kinds of charges—positive and negative—and they attract each other. Spiders spin negatively charged webs, which pull in positively charged insects. As honeybees fly, beating their wings more than 200 times per second, they rub against molecules in the air and collect a positive charge, which helps them attract negatively charged pollen. Insects can also pick up electrical charges by landing on charged surfaces.



Electricity in the air creates lightning.

Scientists measure electricity in the atmosphere by calculating the difference between the charge in the air and the charge at the Earth's surface. This is called the potential gradient. It is the reason you may get a shock when touching a metal doorknob after walking across a carpet, and it can also charge lightning during a storm.

Researchers at the University of Bristol in the UK monitored honeybee hives with a camera and measured the electricity around them. They found that when the bees flew into the air in a swarm, the potential gradient above the hives increased, reaching 100 to 1,000 volts per meter. That's eight times greater than the electricity of a storm cloud.

The denser the cloud of insects, the bigger the electrical field. Based on these findings, the team predicted that locusts—which swarm in huge, dense clouds—could have an impact similar to that of a thunderstorm.

Further research is needed to find out how electrical charges affect the insects and their environment. The researchers say it's unlikely that insects would actually produce storms, but they could still influence weather patterns. Electrical fields can change the movement of dust and other particles in the air, which could scatter sunlight and affect temperature. The insects' electricity might also play a role in the formation of clouds.

The team said the role of electricity produced by insects could be helpful in climate research. "It is important to know how aware the whole natural world is of electricity in the atmosphere," said study author Ellard Hunting.

How animals use electricity

An elephant-nose fish

Several animals have the ability to use electricity—by generating it, detecting it, or both. Electric eels are known for sending out shocks of up to 860 volts to stun their prey. Elephant-nose fish navigate dark, muddy waters by generating an electrical field and noticing any changes caused by objects around them.

Meanwhile, sharks and Guiana dolphins can sense prey by using special organs to tune into their electric fields. The platypus sweeps its bill from side to side like a metal detector, using electrical receptors to discover tasty worms and crayfish. Echidnas, which live on land, use their snouts to hunt for signals from insects.

New device for exploring deep oceans

Deep sea exploration is a challenging and expensive task that requires special equipment and trained experts. As a result, humans have only been able to explore a small fraction (less than 20%) of the world's oceans. To make it easier to do this, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology designed a simple device that costs only about $700 to make.

The Maka Niu

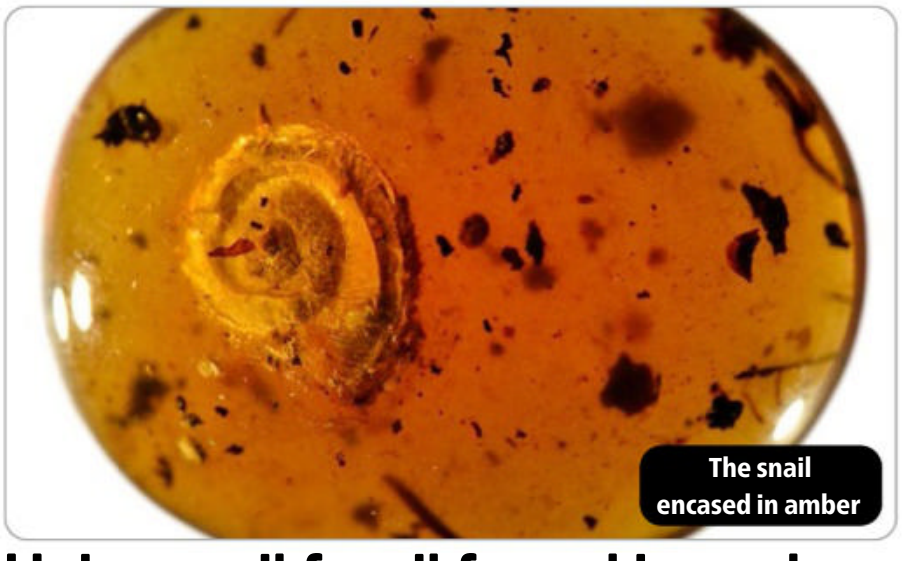
The device is named Maka Niu, which means "coconut eye" in Hawaiian. It uses an inexpensive, readily available Raspberry Pi computer chip and other common materials. Maka Niu has a camera and sensors and can dive down to more than 4,900 feet, which is in the bathypelagic zone, where light cannot reach.

Maka Niu can capture video and measure depth, temperature, and salt levels in the water. The team is also working on a version that can dive to 6,000 meters, enough to reach almost all of the ocean floor. That would let scientists explore new habitats and even discover new species. It could also help them gather data to help study the effect of human activities, such as seafloor mining, on deep ocean habitats.

A nonprofit organization called the Ocean Discovery League has taken over development of the device. Prototypes (early test models) of the Maka Niu have been sent to scientists in different parts of the world, including Hawaii, South Africa, and Sri Lanka.

A diver testing the Maka Niu in the ocean

DID YOU KNOW?
At about 7 miles deep, the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is the deepest point on Earth.


The snail encased in amber

Hairy snail fossil found in amber

Scientists have identified a new species of snail encased in a piece of amber. They estimate the amber to be about 99 million years old. Named Archaeocyclotus brevivillosus by international researchers, the new species is a land snail from the Mesozoic period (252 to 66 million years ago).

Experts found the snail in an amber mine in the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar in 2017. This is the eighth species of land snail found in Myanmar Mesozoic amber. It's one of six of those species that had hairy shells.

The snail is about an inch long. Its outer shell has very short bristly hairs, which scientists believe were a sign of the creature's evolution (the development of an animal or plant slowly over time). The hair would have allowed the snails to cling more easily to plants or leaves and given them an evolutionary advantage over their hairless counterparts.

AMAZING INVENTION

Super-cold shower for pain relief

Cold water can help with pain.

Dean Skivington injured his back in 2007 while playing rugby in the UK. He had several surgeries but was still in pain for many years. The only thing that helped was running very cold water on his back, but there was one problem: He couldn't get the water in his shower cold enough.

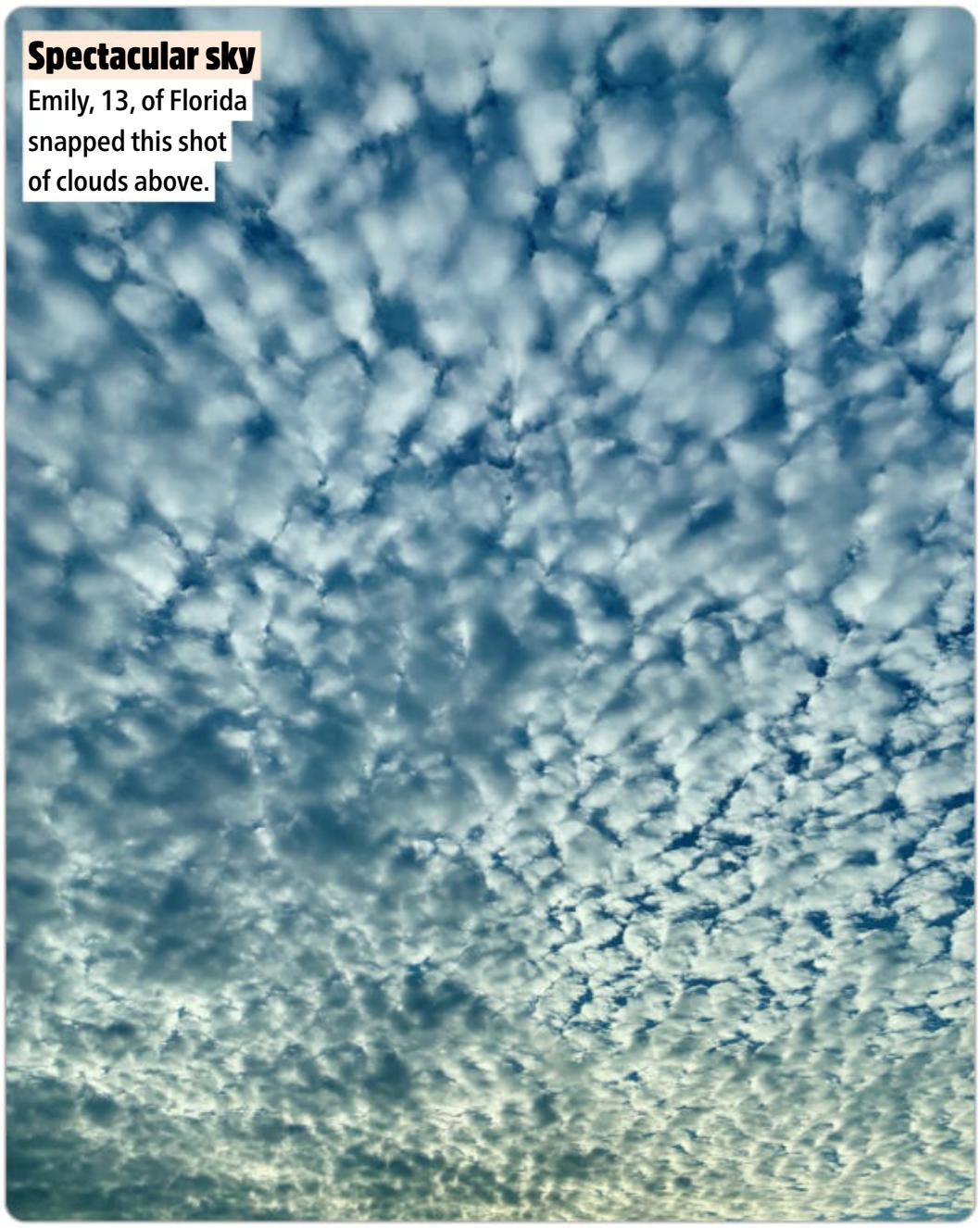
To remedy this, Skivington invented the CryoShower, a small, portable unit that connects to a shower or bathtub and makes the water run super cold. He said it has changed his life and hopes that the device will one day do the same for others as well.

VANESSA KAHN, NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM; LUI KAWASUMI, OCEAN DISCOVERY LEAGUE; SENCKENBERG; ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY

Reader photos of the week

Power of pink
Ruben, 8, of New York took this close-up of a flower's pistil.

Fall foliage
These vibrant autumn colors were shot by Diya, 11, of Michigan.



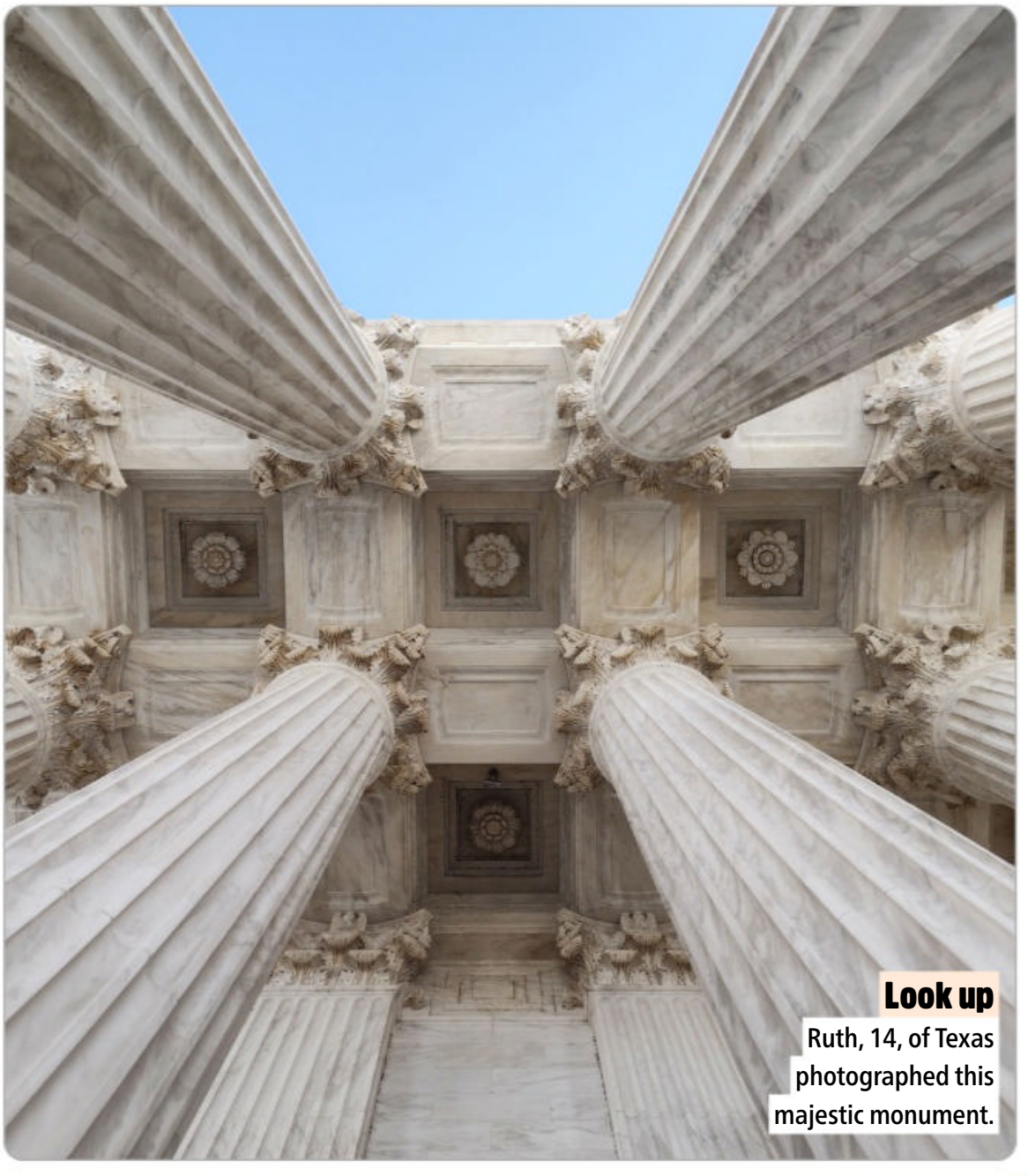
Spectacular sky
Emily, 13, of Florida snapped this shot of clouds above.

DIYA, EMILY, JACK, RUBEN, RUTH, SAGE

Reader photos of the week

Mountain view
Sage, 10, of New Hampshire captured this serene scene.

Just stopping by
A bee visits a flower in this image taken by Jack, 9, of Missouri.



Look up
Ruth, 14, of Texas photographed this majestic monument.

DID YOU KNOW?
This is the first time a country in the Middle East has hosted a World Cup.

The World Cup opening ceremony

The World Cup ball

World Cup matches feature an Adidas ball called the "Al Rihla" ("The Journey" in Arabic). It is designed to maintain speed in the air and is considered the fastest ball in World Cup history. The design on the ball and its colors were inspired by Qatar's culture, boats, and flag.

World Cup begins in Qatar

On November 20, the 2022 FIFA World Cup began in Qatar. The soccer tournament, which takes place every four years, is the most-watched event in the world and runs until December 18. The defending champion is France.

There has been a great deal of controversy about Qatar hosting the World Cup. One key concern is that thousands of foreign workers who came there to help build stadiums and prepare for the World Cup have died due to poor work conditions, according to human rights activists and journalists. The country also has strict and conservative laws that discriminate against certain groups. As a result, many soccer fans, politicians, and celebrities have boycotted the tournament. The former president of FIFA (the Federation Internationale de Football Association, the global governing body for soccer) said that choosing Qatar as the host country was a "mistake."

Ecuador vs. Qatar

The opening ceremony, held at Al Bayt Stadium, featured a performance by Jungkook of BTS and a tribute to the 32 participating countries. Afterward, Ecuador and Qatar competed in the World Cup's opening match. Ecuador controlled play throughout the contest and won, 2–0. The team's captain, Enner Valencia, scored both goals.

On November 21, games were played among the four teams in World Cup Group B—the US, England, Iran, and Wales. England beat Iran, 6–2, then the US took on Wales, who had not made a World Cup since 1958. The very physical match ended in a 1–1 draw. The US team's goal was made by forward Timothy Weah during the first half. Wales picked up momentum in the second half, but it looked like the US would hold them off. However, in the 82nd minute, Welsh star Gareth Bale drew a foul that resulted in him being awarded a penalty kick. He made the goal, which tied the match. Neither team scored again.

England is one of the favorites to win the World Cup, along with Brazil, France, and Argentina, who shockingly lost their first match to Saudi Arabia.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

At the NCAA Division One cross country championships on November 18, Northern Arizona University won the men's title and defending champions North Carolina State University (NC State) won the women's title. Individual champions were Charles Hicks of Stanford University, who won the men's 10-kilometer race, and NC State's Katelyn Tuohy, who won the women's 6-kilometer race.

NC State runners

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On November 17, New York Yankees star Aaron Judge was named this year's American League Most Valuable Player (MVP). Paul Goldschmidt of the St. Louis Cardinals was named the National League MVP.

COLLEGE FIELD HOCKEY

On November 20, the University of North Carolina (UNC) beat Northwestern University, 2–1, to win a record tenth national championship. UNC was undefeated this season.

FUN FACT
In women's hockey, Team USA has defeated Team Canada 75 times out of 170 matchups.

Players from Team USA and Team Canada

US beats Canada in hockey

The 2022–23 Rivalry Series, a set of seven exhibition games between the women's national ice hockey teams from the US and Canada, has kicked off. The first three games took place on November 15, November 17, and November 20. The Americans won them all.

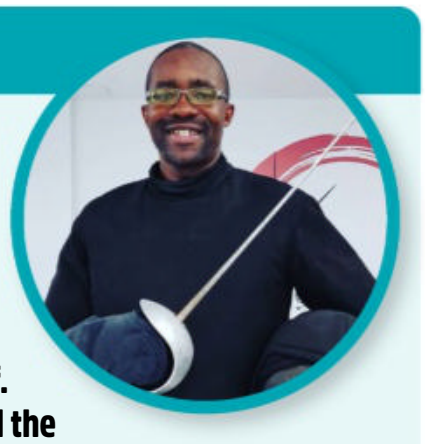
The US and Canada are two of the world's top teams. This year, Team Canada beat the US in the gold medal game of the Beijing Olympics and the finals of the Women's Hockey World Championship. Team USA's three wins in the Rivalry Series made for an exciting comeback.

The opening game took place in Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada. Team USA had a 2–0 lead in the second period, but Canada went up 3–2 in the third. A last-minute goal by American forward Alex Carpenter tied it up and forced an overtime. After neither team was able to score, the game went to a penalty shoot-out. In the end, the US won, 4–3. The next game was held in Kamloops, British Columbia, and was another close contest. The game was tied 1–1 until Carpenter delivered another huge goal in the third period. The US won, 2–1.

The action moved to Seattle, Washington, for the third game. It set an attendance record for an American national women's hockey game played in the US. Team USA delivered another strong performance and came away with a 4–2 victory. American star Hilary Knight scored twice.

The Rivalry Series continues in December with games in Nevada and California.

COACH OF THE WEEK



Coach's name: **Ivan Lee**

Team: **Long Island Fencing Center**

"Ivan Lee is a great coach because he inspires me to be a future fencing champion and he teaches me to believe in myself. He makes me feel confident in myself. He lets me learn strategy in my work and teaches me all the techniques to use in offense and defense. He also made up a quote that I use in fencing: 'Look, think, act.' He teaches me to be fierce when the time is right." Eli, 10, New York

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Sam Macuga

AGE: 21 SPORT: SKI JUMPING
TEAM: USA

Taking off My mom signed me up for a program and had no idea what it was. She didn't see me take my first few jumps until about a year later, and she was shocked. If you've never seen ski jumping, it's kind of crazy seeing a 9-year-old go off something 20 meters (about 65 feet) high.

Practice time Ski jumping is a unique winter sport because we train and compete almost all year round. We can jump on plastic in the summer.

Rare air Any ski jumper will tell you their favorite part of the sport is flying. It's incredible. On competition days, I make sure I have time to digest breakfast before I jump, because if I have a lot in my stomach it feels weird when I'm flying.

Staying sharp A jump is about only eight seconds long, so you want to get as precise as you can with your movements. As I'm waiting my turn, I pick one or two things I really want to do right, like having my arms closer to my body. I say it over and over to myself and that allows me to really focus and not get distracted thinking about the judges.

Aiming high There were seasons where I was in last place in every competition I went to. That is really draining. I thought maybe I should quit, but I'm glad I stuck with it. I'm starting the World Cup circuit at the beginning of December. My goal this season is to go to the World Championships.

Her advice If you want to pursue a sport, don't let results or competitions get you down. If you love something and you can keep doing it, then keep doing it. It's a marathon, it's not a sprint.

GETTY IMAGES (2); MELISSA MAJCHRZAK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

DID YOU KNOW?
Disney will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023.

Strange World

New animated adventure film

Disney's *Strange World* centers on family relationships and caring about the environment for future generations.

Strange World, a new animated comedy-adventure from Disney, is now playing in theaters. The film was directed by Don Hall, who made *Raya and the Last Dragon* and *Big Hero 6*. It was co-directed and written by Qui Nguyen, who also co-wrote *Raya*.

The film is set in a land called Avalonia and revolves around three generations of the Clade family. Jaeger Clade is a celebrated explorer who never returned from an expedition. His son, Searcher, is a devoted husband and father who is famous for discovering pando, a plant-based power source. His son, Ethan, is a helpful and adventurous teen. When something begins to plague pando, Searcher joins a mission to a strange underground world to find out how to save the plant. His wife and Ethan end up along for the ride. Nguyen called the film "a celebration of family" and said it's about relatives getting past differences they may have.

Qui Nguyen

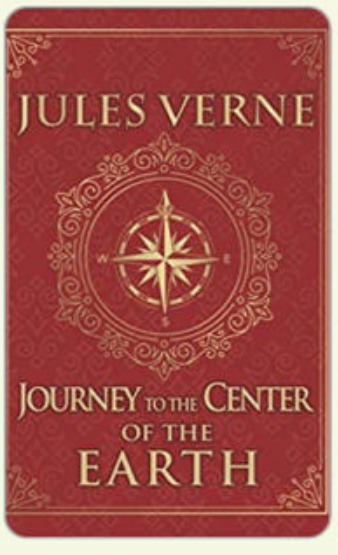
The production team set out to make a film with incredible visuals. Some of their inspiration came from the covers of pulp fiction stories that were popular during the early to-mid-1900s. (They were called "pulp" because of the type of paper they were printed on.) Production designer Justin Cram said his team liked to see how people used to imagine spaceships or aliens. "It was a great jumping-off point," he said. Hall, meanwhile, is a fan of French and Belgian comics, so those styles were incorporated into the look of the film as well.

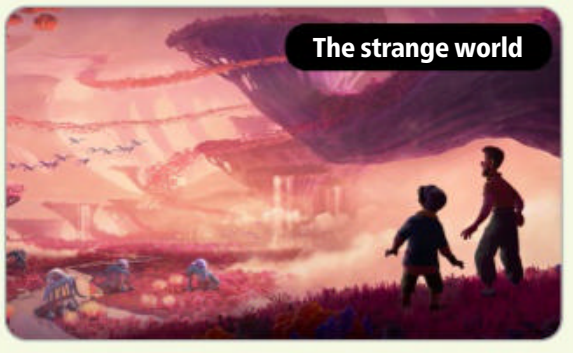
Although the story is fictional, the filmmakers believe it has a message about the environment and being a good ancestor that is relevant to real life. Producer Roy Conli said he hopes audiences come away from the film thinking, "How do we leave a better place for the next generation?"

3 facts about the film

Inspiration for the story

The film was inspired by other stories about adventures to mysterious lands, such as *Journey to the Center of the Earth* by Jules Verne and the film *King Kong*.





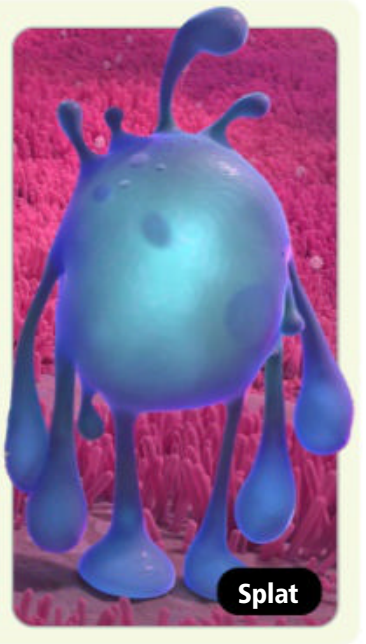
The strange world

Color choices

The visuals team assigned each setting in the film a color palette. Avalonia uses warm colors, and the Clades' farm is filled with cool blues and greens. To set the strange world apart, it does not feature any earth tones or a blue sky.

Unique creatures

Splat is a blobby blue creature that guides the Clades in the mystery land. It has no face and several legs and arms. Other odd creatures were given funny names, such as Flatty Patty, Poop Pickle, and Transportasaurus.



Splat

An unlikely hero comes to TV

The story that began with the popular fantasy film *Willow* more than 30 years ago is continuing in a new television series of the same name. It premieres on Disney+ on November 30.

The unlikely hero of the film and series is Willow Ufgood. When audiences first met him, he was a young farmer who dreamed of being a great sorcerer but was afraid of failure. After a dangerous journey to protect a special baby from evil, he found his magic powers. The new series is set 20 years later and follows Willow as he leads a group of young misfit heroes on another epic quest. It is written for returning fans as well as people who are new to the story.

English actor Warwick Davis, who starred in the original film, is back as Willow. Davis was born with dwarfism (a medical or genetic condition that causes a person to be short in stature). In addition to acting, he is an advocate for diversity and inclusion. His daughter Annabelle, who is also a little person, plays Willow's daughter.

The show's new cast members and characters will also bring diversity to the story and add to a big reason why past audiences loved *Willow*. "The idea that a hero can come from everywhere and anywhere is beautiful," said Tony Revolori, who plays Graydon, a socially awkward bookworm. "I think that's why it's stood the test of time."

MOVIE NIGHT

If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

Fantasy Football (2022) PG

Paramount+

This new comedy centers on Callie Coleman, whose dad, Bobby, is a player in the National Football League (NFL). Bobby is not successful on the field, and the Colemans recently moved because he was traded to a new team. Callie is very into robotics and video games, especially the Madden NFL series. When she discovers she has a magical version of the game that allows her to control her dad when he plays, Bobby becomes a star. The family, however, can't tell anyone why he is so good. At school, Callie is on the robotics team and has made many friends, but her involvement in her family's newfound good fortune conflicts with her commitment to the team. With the NFL playoffs looming, how will she handle the pressure of keeping her gaming power a secret?

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Hip Hop Nutcracker

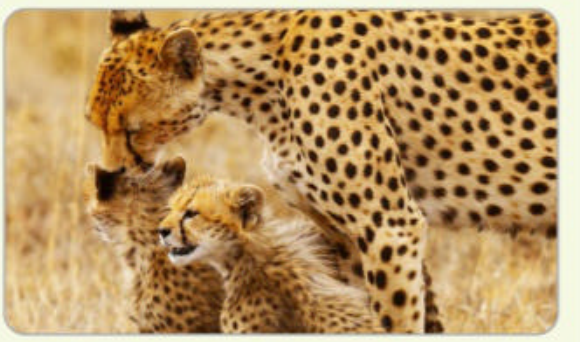
(Disney+)

The classic ballet *The Nutcracker* has been reimagined by hip-hop legend Rev. Run. This special production features hip-hop dancers and an appearance by the renowned dance crew the Jabbawockeez. Also look out for world-famous ballet star Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Best in Snow

(Disney+)

Five teams from around the world have four days to transform giant blocks of snow in this competition. Their goal is to carve them into creations inspired by Disney, Pixar, Marvel, and the Muppets, in hopes of impressing judges and winning the Best in Snow title.



Our Universe

(Netflix)

This nature series explains how the sun, sea turtles, and the rest of the world came to exist. Vibrant computer-generated images of the cosmos help explain the universe's 13.8 billion-year-old history, while high-tech cameras provide stunning footage of wildlife today.

LUCASFILM LTD.; DISNEY/SER BAFFO; DISNEY/TODD WAWRYCHUK; NETFLIX; NICKELODEON/PARAMOUNT+; ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY (3); GETTY IMAGES

FUN FACT
Pop star Ed Sheeran has a new song, "Celestial," that is part of the new Pokémon games.

Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet

Have double the Pokémon fun

Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet are two new open-world role-playing adventure games that were recently released. Both games are exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

The first Pokémon game came out in the US in 1998. New generations arrive every few years with fresh regions, characters, and new pokémon to catch. Scarlet and Violet begin the ninth generation. They have more adventures and gameplay options than ever, plus two new rare and powerful Legendary Pokémon.

Scarlet and Violet share the same story, location, key characters, and most of the same pokémon. In each game, trainers have the option to begin their adventures with one of three new starter pokémon: Sprigatito (a grass cat), Fuecoco (a fiery crocodile), and Quaxly (a water-type duck). After that decision is made, trainers head to one of two schools, depending on which game is being played. Both schools introduce the trainer to important characters, including a new friend named Nemona. She acts as a guide through Paldea, which is the first open-world region in the Pokémon series. That means that unlike in past games in the main series, players looking for pokémon can now explore towns in any order they like.

Nemona

Scarlet and Violet offer trainers three adventures. Path of Legends is a journey to find a magic herb guarded by Titan pokémon. Starfall Street sends a trainer to face students that are part of a new team of villains. Victory Road is the most similar to earlier games, with eight gyms on the way to ultimate glory.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

THE PEEPKINS

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music

This new music-filled story-time podcast follows the Peepkins, a flock of curious birds who live in a charming town. In each episode, Commander Hatch and her best friend Noah go on adventures to lift the town's spirits while trying to stop the evil schemes of Baron Von Torius.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

CHRISTMAS HAMSTER

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-AFHV

Get an exclusive preview of the *America's Funniest Home Videos* holiday-themed special with this clip of a hamster, named Butter, trying to eat a candy cane. Then explore the show's YouTube channel to see all types of cute and wacky videos. The special airs December 4 at 7:00 pm ET on ABC.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

INTERLAND

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Interland

Google launched this web-based game in 2017 as part of its Be Internet Awesome site, aimed at online safety. You choose different lands, each with their own challenges. For example, in Mindful Mountain (pictured), you have to figure out how to share information with the correct people.

THE POKÉMON COMPANY INTERNATIONAL (2); QCODE; COURTESY OF AMERICA'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS; GOOGLE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Keeper of the Lost Cities: Stellarlune

By Shannon Messenger

(Aladdin)

The ninth book of this popular series has as much drama as previous ones did. Fans are reunited with Sophie, who can read minds. When she was 12, she learned that she was an elf hidden in the human world. She really belonged to the Lost Cities, a secret realm. In this book, Sophie tries to find Keefe, a friend who has gone missing. In the process, she uncovers secrets that were hidden for hundreds of years. Compared to earlier books, Sophie seems more confident in her decisions. While the book solves mysteries, it ends on a cliff-hanger. It's easier to follow the plot if you read the books in order. The next book, which is expected to be the final one in the series, will be published in 2023.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Stellarlune*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Stellarlune in the subject line. Enter by midnight on December 16. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Shannon Messenger

We spoke to the author of *Stellarlune*.

Do you have a favorite book in your Keeper of the Lost Cities series?

I'm most proud of *Book Four: Neverseen*. I took some risks with it. Readers consistently tell me it's their favorite book in the series, too.

Is there a character you relate to most?

I try very hard to let the characters be their own people, but the one that's the most like me is Silveny, which is the sparkly alicorn that's very exuberant.

What did you like reading as a child?

I read *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis a zillion times. I also liked Nancy Drew books and Beverly Cleary's Ramona books.

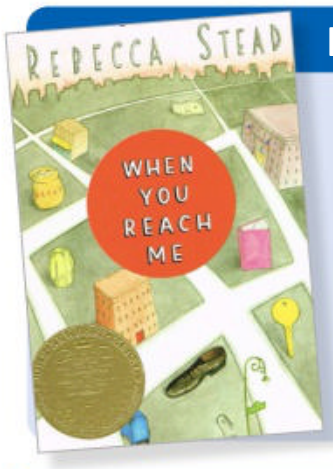
Is there a superpower you would want?

It would be great to be able to teleport and whisk away to the other side of the world.

Favorite pie?

It's cherry. But of the holiday pies, pumpkin all the way.

READER RECOMMENDS



When You Reach Me *By Rebecca Stead*

"I adore this book! It has time travel, friendship, hardship, mystery, and togetherness! The main character, Miranda, starts receiving mysterious notes. She tells her mom about the first note but not about the others. Through all this, her mom is competing on a game show to win money! This book is set in the '70s. I love how it is all intertwined and connected." Ellie, 12, Montana

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 stories that take place on trains

All aboard! These books are full of action, adventure, and mystery.

The Highland Falcon Thief

By M.G. Leonard and Sam Sedgman, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli (Feiwel & Friends)

A princess's diamond necklace goes missing on a train trip, and 11-year-old Hal tries to figure out who did it. Will his new friend turn out to be innocent of the crime? The story is the first in the Adventures on Trains series. *Ages 10 and up*

On the Blue Comet

By Rosemary Wells, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

(Candlewick Press)

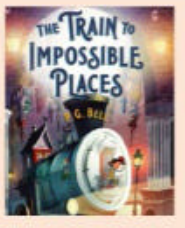
In this book set in the 1920s, Oscar and his dad enjoy building model trains. But when the stock market crashes, they lose their home and possessions. The trains end up on display at a bank. When the bank is robbed, Oscar is there. He time-travels into the future to piece together what happened. *Ages 10 and up*

The Silver Arrow

By Lev Grossman

(Little, Brown for Young Readers)

For Kate's 11th birthday, her uncle buys her a steam locomotive that transports talking animals. Kate and her younger brother learn how to operate the train, adding cars filled with books and candy. Even though the story is whimsical, it also helps you discover how to help protect the environment. *Ages 8–12*



The Train to Impossible Places

By P.G. Bell

(Square Fish)

Suzy wakes up in the middle of the night and sees the Impossible Postal Express, a magical train that delivers mail to unusual places. Suzy hops aboard the train and is assigned to bring a package to an evil sorceress. This book, the first in a series, is both funny and adventurous. *Ages 8–12*

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF SHANNON MESSENGER; GETTY IMAGES

FIRST TEAM
The first professional American football team was started in 1897 in Pennsylvania.

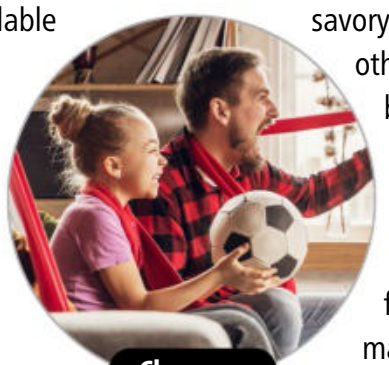
Host a game-day party

Watching football with friends is a fun way to spend a weekend afternoon.

If you'd like to have a group of family and friends over on the weekend, consider hosting a game-day party. This is an event when people come together to watch a sport, often college or professional football, that's being played live on television. Here's what you need to know to plan a great game-day party at your home.

Choose a game

Ask a parent to help you look online for the game schedule of your favorite team. It's best to choose a weekend game so more people are available to attend. You also may want to choose an afternoon game, instead of an evening game, which can end late. Some games may be more exciting than others to watch as a group. For instance, if your team is facing off against its top rival or is in a playoff game, more people may want to gather during that game than others.



Cheer on your team.

Invite friends

Make a list of who you want to invite, then ask a parent to help you reach out to ask them. You and your family could also invite another family if your parent wants to take part in the party too. Invite everyone to arrive about half an hour before the game starts. This way, people can chat and enjoy some food before the game begins. It can also be fun to watch the pregame when the players are announced. Let your guests know if they should wear something special, such as a team's colors or a sports jersey.

Plan the menu

As the host of the party, you can decide what kind of food to serve. You could provide a main course, such as chili or pizza, then ask guests to bring other snacks and sweets, such as chips and cookies. You could also decide to skip a main course and serve plenty of savory and sweet snacks. Have water and other drinks on hand, or ask people to bring their own reusable water bottles.

Add festive touches

Homemade decorations can make the area around your TV feel spirited. A few ideas: Use construction paper to make paper chains in the colors of the two teams playing and drape them around the room. Cut football shapes out of brown paper or cardboard and write messages on them, such as "Go Team" or "Touchdown," and hang them around the room. If you want to play a game, make a list of five to eight questions for everyone to answer when they arrive. Some questions could be, "Which team will win the coin toss?" and "What player will get the first touchdown?" The person with the most correct answers at the end of the game wins!

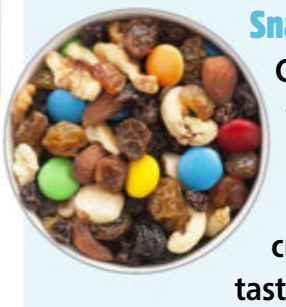
4 tasty snacks to serve at a party

These football-themed dishes are easy to prepare and fun for everyone to enjoy during the game.

Brownies

Take a tray of baked brownies and cut them into football shapes with a cookie cutter. Use vanilla icing to add white trim to them.

Snack mix



Combine a few salty and sweet items to create a tasty snack mix. Then stir in chocolate candies, such as M&M's, in the colors of the team you're rooting for.

Dip and chips

Make or buy guacamole. Place it in a serving dish and use sour cream to add thin lines going across the dip that look like yard lines on the field. Serve with tortilla chips.

Meat "ball" kabobs

Buy premade meatballs at the store. With an adult's help, cook them according to the package directions. Place them on a platter or thread them onto wooden skewers. Serve with marinara sauce for dipping.

DID YOU KNOW?
To trap predators, hagfish release a chemical that turns the water around them into a sticky slime.

Make frosting slime you can eat

What you need:

- 1 16-ounce tub of white frosting
- Mixing bowls
- 2½ cups powdered sugar (also called confectioners' sugar), plus more as needed
- Food coloring
- Spoon
- Sprinkles (optional)
- Jars or sealable containers for storage

Instructions

1. Since you may want to eat this slime, be sure you start by washing and drying your hands well, as you do when you're cooking.

2. Scoop the frosting out of the tub and place it in a large mixing bowl. Add the powdered sugar into the bowl and mix well. If it is still sticky when you touch it, mix in another heaping tablespoon of powdered sugar or more until the mixture is a texture that feels smooth to the touch and you can stretch it between your hands.

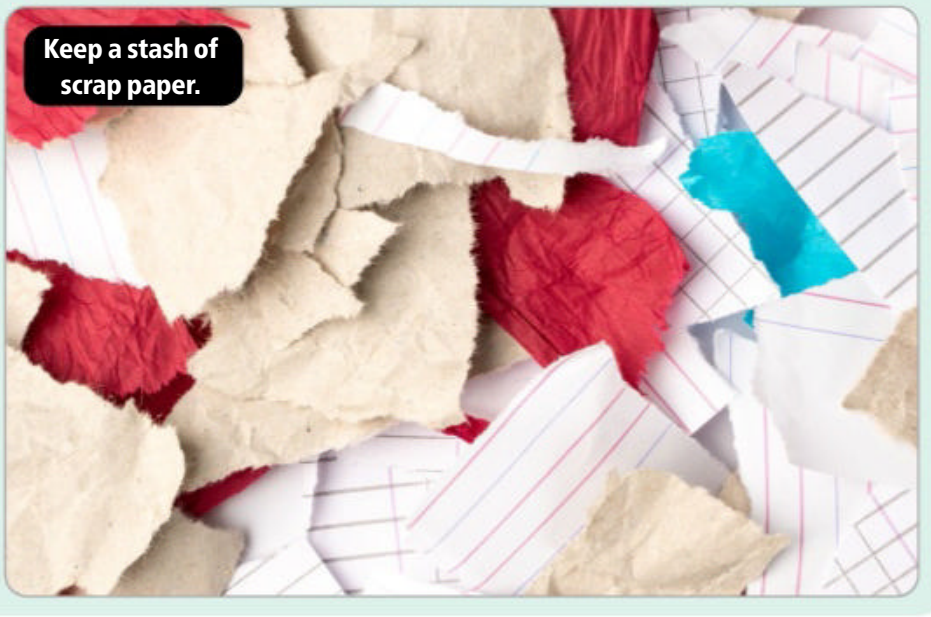
3. If you'd like to tint your edible slime to be colorful, divide it up into portions for however many colors you'd like to make. Place each piece in a small bowl. Into each bowl, squeeze two to three drops of food coloring to create a pastel color. Add more drops to create a deeper color. Mix the food coloring in well with a spoon or with your hands. (If adding food coloring makes the slime sticky again, sprinkle in more powdered sugar and mix it in.)

4. If you'd like, you can also add in some sprinkles, which will add a fun texture to your slime. Sprinkle them on top of the slime, then use your fingers to mix them throughout.

5. Store your slime in an airtight container for three to four days at room temperature. If you want to taste it, keep it in the fridge when you're not playing with it.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK
SAVE PAPER WHEN YOU CAN

Since paper is created from trees, being mindful of the paper you use can help the environment. There are a few simple steps you can take. Aim to use a new sheet of paper only when you need to, like making a birthday card for a friend. If you're practicing your drawing or jotting down a grocery list for a parent, try to use scrap paper, such as the back of a school flyer, a used envelope, or other recycled paper. If you're printing a document from a computer, choose the double-sided option. This will reduce the amount of paper you use by half. If your family uses paper towels and napkins, ask if you can use reusable towels and napkins more often instead.

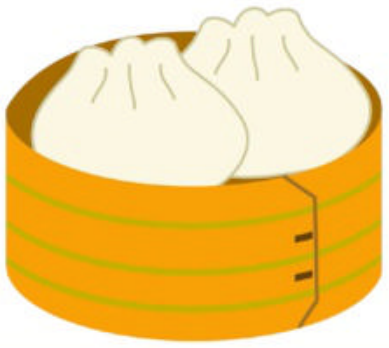


JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Word search

Can you find all these Chinese restaurant words in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

BEEF
CHOPSTICKS
DIM SUM
DUMPLINGS
EGG ROLL
FORTUNE COOKIE
HUNAN
KUNG PAO
LO MEIN
MENU
MOO SHU
NOODLES
ORDER
PEPPER
PORK
RIBS
RICE
SESAME
SNOW PEAS
SOUP
SOY SAUCE
SPICY
STIR-FRY
SWEET AND SOUR
SZECHUAN
TOFU
WOK
WONTON



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C															T
U															I
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Y	P	E	A	S	W	E	E	T	A	N	D	S	O	U	R
O	E	I	O	D	R	I	B	S	O	I	A	G	N	G	Y
S	P	U	C	W	O	E	N	O	A	P	G	N	U	K	T
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		M	B	E	E	F	U	S	I	I	O	K	O		
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			N	N	T	N	O	E	K	O	W	T			
			N	O	U	W	M	U	S	M	I	D			

OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

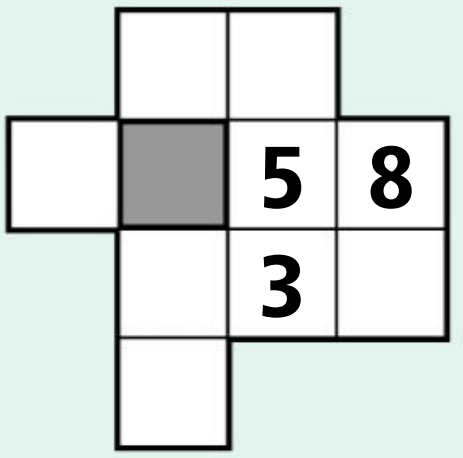
D E F G T W

_ R O N _

_ R O N _

_ R O N _

Out of order



The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with words that are homophones of each other (pronounced alike but spelled differently), like DEAR and DEER. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. While we were at the hotel pool, the ___ ___ ___ ___ let herself into our room, straightened up, and ___ ___ ___ ___ the beds.
2. I could never have ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ that my best friend, who is always late, would be the first ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ to arrive at the party!
3. To get to our family picnic in ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Island, our cousins ___ ___ ___ ___ dirt bikes along a bumpy ___ ___ ___ ___ , but we ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ a boat across the lake and got there before they did.

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a nutcracker appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Fill in the Blanks hint: In sentence 2, the first word ends with ED and the second word ends with T.

That's unbelievable!

The eel's scan produced a 3D image of his body (left).

A most unusual procedure

Larry Gordon of Tacoma, Washington wasn't feeling well, so doctors wanted to do a CT scan (a type of X-ray) to better understand his condition. But Gordon isn't like most patients: He is a leopard moray eel. To get his unusual scan done, zoo staff transferred him in a plastic tub full of medicated water to keep him calm. Although the 5-foot eel was too long to completely straighten out inside the scanner, the medical team was able to get a detailed 3D image of his body and help him regain his health.

A "wheelie" good day

When a friend who was on vacation asked Kris Nesbitt to take their trash out, they meant that he should take the garbage can outside for collection. But instead, Nesbitt took the can out for a date at a nearby park. Together with his can companion, the Scottish man played on the swings, slid down the slide, and relaxed on a bench. "We were in the park for about half an hour," Nesbitt said, but the full can was "difficult to fling around."

A man and the can

Philly's chicken champ

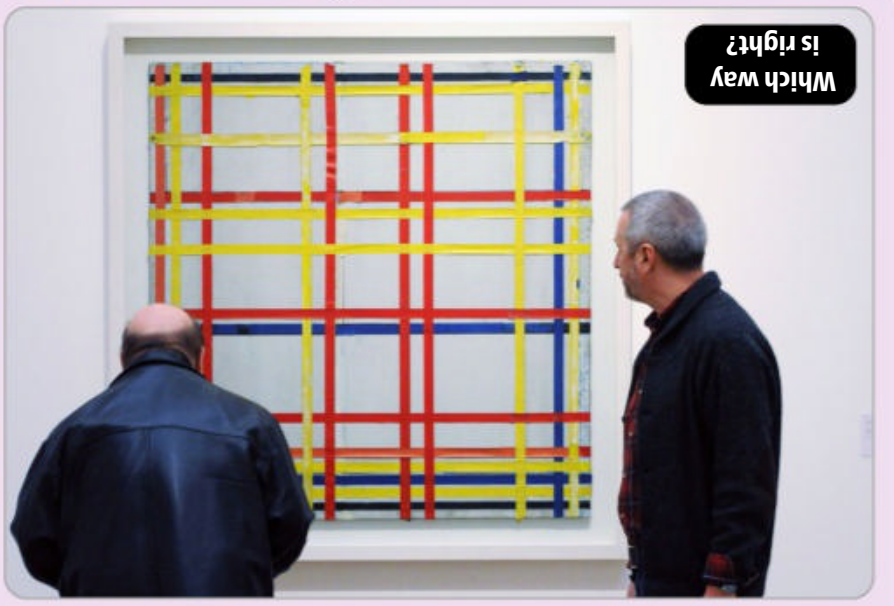
Hours after the Philadelphia Phillies lost the World Series, a local man gave the city a new event to rally around. Alexander Tominsky ate 40 whole rotisserie chickens over 40 days and invited the public to the final meal. Hundreds of people gathered to cheer him on, chanting, "Eat that chicken!" Tominsky doesn't really like chicken, he said, but "it just seemed right."

Real or fake?

Could walking be as speedy as driving?

Shoes that speed things up

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to walk as fast as a car? A company called Shift Robotics has designed the "world's fastest shoes," which adapt to the way you walk and can power you to move at up to 30 miles per hour. The Moonwalkers have eight wheels, are powered by batteries, and have smart brakes that let you stop quickly for stairs, doors, and buses. What do you think? Is this real, or are we pulling a fast one?*



Which way is right?

Painting hangs upside down

Visitors have been viewing a famous painting upside down for 75 years. "New York City I," by the Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, features a grid of bright lines. It was first displayed this way in 1945, after the artist's death. Recently, an Italian artist pointed out the mistake to the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, the German museum where the painting hangs. However, curators have refused to turn the artwork over because it could be damaged. The museum said that "the fact that it can be read in any direction" may be the work's "truly revolutionary feature."

*Fake! Shift Robotics has created "the world's fastest shoes," but instead of 30 miles per hour, they help you walk at seven miles per hour—still more than twice as fast as an average walk. Pre-orders start at $1,099, and the shoes will be available next year.

INSTAGRAM/@PTDEFIANCEZOO; KATIE COTTERILL/POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM; DEADLINE; GETTY IMAGES (2); SHIFT MOODWALKERS; ON THE LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Editor's note

My brother and several other family members live in the area of New York state that was hit by a historic snowstorm last week (p5). Seeing the photos of such an incredible amount of snow brought back memories of an even bigger storm that struck the region when I was growing up there—the Blizzard of 1977, which dropped more than 100 inches of snow on some counties! I recall the way our community—including firefighters on snowmobiles!—came together to make sure people had the food, water, and heat they needed to get through it. The same kind spirit was shown during this storm, and I am grateful for that. As I write this note, Thanksgiving is two days away and I am feeling grateful for many other things as well, including the amazing team who works with me to create this magazine every week—and all our readers and their families. We are thankful for you!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Lasagna Love

This organization aims to spread love and kindness through food. People in need in the US, Canada, and Australia can request a pan of lasagna through the website. The baked pasta dishes are then prepared and delivered by volunteers. More than 35,000 people have worked together to make and deliver more than 250,000 lasagnas since 2020. Find out more at lasagnalove.org.

Raising funds for cancer research

Arya, 9, and Navya, 7, Connecticut

"Halloween is known for candy and not-so-nutritious treats. We wanted to change that. Instead of convincing kids to make healthy choices, we convinced parents to give out healthy treats on Halloween. We went door-to-door and got more than 30 parents to sign up. We gave parents a list of healthy alternatives and also an option to buy a $10 or $20 bag of healthy treats from us. In two weeks, we sold more than $500 worth of treat bags and raised $120 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We not only helped kids get healthy treats but also raised money for cancer research."

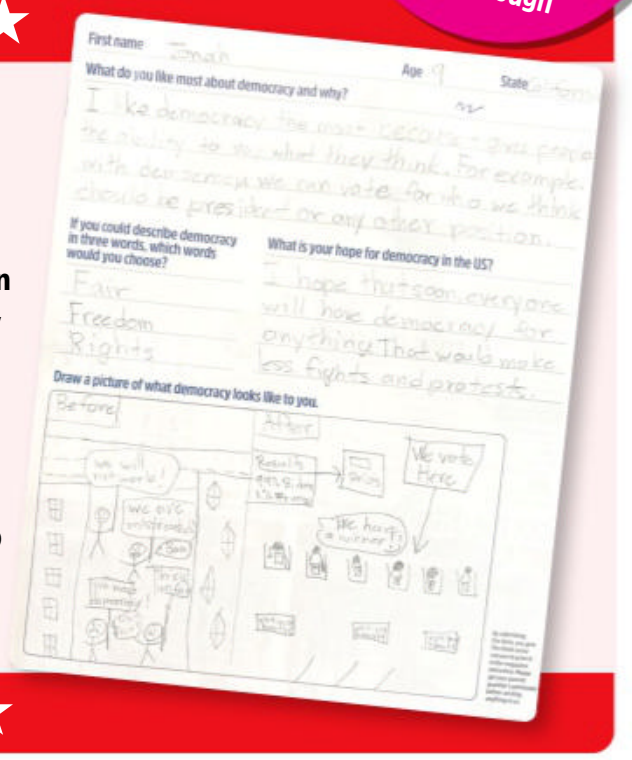
Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What rises in the west at daybreak?
A California bakery's bread dough

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Celebrating our democracy

A founding principle of the United States is that it's a democracy—meaning that citizens hold the power to elect the people who govern them. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about America's democratic process. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.


First name
Age
State
What do you like most about democracy and why?
If you could describe democracy in three words, which words would you choose?
What is your hope for democracy in the US?
Draw a picture of what democracy looks like to you.
Before
After
We vote Here

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"I love reading *The Week Junior* outside with the sheep!" Emmett, 11, Arizona

"I love your magazine, so I thought, 'Why not show you guys?' I made this delectable frappuccino all by myself!" Sarah, 10, Illinois

"I have been collecting *The Week Junior* for nearly three years now and look forward to reading a new edition every week!" Raphaelle, 11, Florida

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What is one way you try to help the environment?

"I know this is an obvious answer. Plant trees!"

"I have picked up trash around my community."

"#teamtrees"

In the big debate, we asked: Should schools bring back cursive writing?

"Yes, cursive writing makes it easier and faster to write."

"No, because people don't use cursive writing much anymore. They should teach us typing instead."

"Yes, it can be good to use in the future."

"No, some kids don't know how to do cursive. It would be hard on top of everything else."

"Sure, why not? It looks good."

Now tell us: What are you most grateful for this holiday season and why?

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Ms. Laurel**

School: **Mesa Union Elementary School**

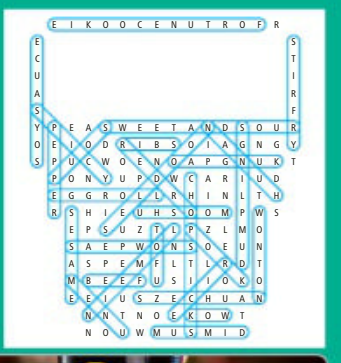
"Ms. Laurel is an amazing person, and I am so lucky to have her as a teacher. Her classroom is neat and organized, making it easy to find everything. She is kind and thoughtful, and she makes everyone feel welcome in the classroom. I know that no matter what, Ms. Laurel will always be there for any of her students. She will always be one of my favorite teachers."

Poppy, 10, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word search
Unused letters: Reading WONTON upward in this puzzle spells out NOT NOW.



Fill in the blanks
1. maid, made
2. guessed, guest
3. Rhode, rode, road, rowed

Off sides
drone
front
wrong

	7	2	
4		5	8
	9	3	1
	6		

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 c) Rotisserie chicken **2** 2.5 inches **3** a) North Carolina State **4** c) Pando **5** The White House **6** True **7** The Eras Tour **8** False. She is an elf. **9** b) Emperor penguin **10** Speaker of the House **11** True **12** b) Italian **13** True **14** Nemona **15** c) Snoopy

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: LASAGNA LOVE

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 A Philadelphia man ate what type of food for 40 straight days?

a) Cake b) Pizza c) Rotisserie chicken

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 About how wide is the wingspan of a peacock butterfly?

3 Which university won the NCAA women's cross country championship?

a) North Carolina State

b) Northern Arizona c) Stanford

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 The new animated movie *Strange World* involves a plant-based power source called what?

a) Leafo b) Mulcho c) Pando

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 Dale Haney has been the groundskeeper at what famous building for 50 years?

6 True or false? A swarm of bees can generate electricity.

True ☐ False ☐

7 What is Taylor Swift's new North American tour called?

8 True or false? Sophie from the book series *Keeper of the Lost Cities* is a human who can read minds.

True ☐ False ☐

14

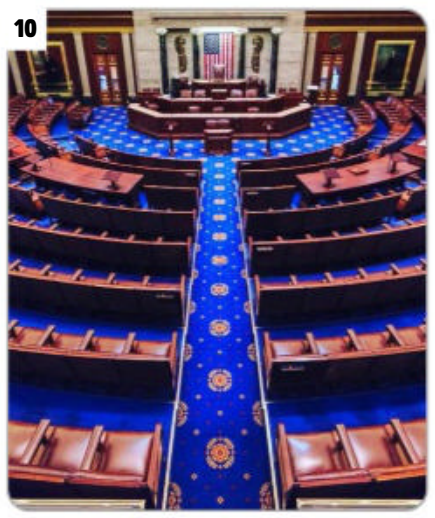
2

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

4

6

10



9 What is the biggest species of penguin in the world?

a) Chinstrap penguin

b) Emperor penguin

c) King penguin

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 What is the top leader of the House of Representatives called?

11 True or false? Doctors in Washington recently performed a CT scan on an eel.

True ☐ False ☐

12 The word "ballet" comes from a word that means "to dance" in what language?

a) French b) Italian c) Russian

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? Humans have explored less than 20% of the world's oceans.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What is the name of the character who guides players through the Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet video games?

15 A doll of what famous cartoon dog is inside the capsule of the Artemis I rocket?

a) Goofy

b) Pluto

c) Snoopy

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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SERPENT STATUE

A statue of a naga, a mythical serpent in Buddhist and Hindu traditions, stands outside the Wat Phra That Nong Bua temple in Thailand.

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